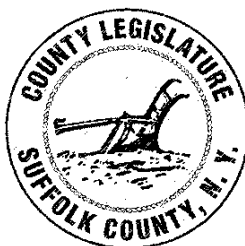


SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Suite P
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN HONORS POW/MIA VETERANS

Every third Friday in September declared as POW/MIA Recognition Day in Suffolk County



Legislator Steve Stern honors former Prisoners of War at a POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at Northport VA Sept. 19, 2014.

HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th L.D), Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, honored dozens of former Prisoners of War for their courage and service during a POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the Veterans Administration in Northport on Sept. 19, 2014.

The third Friday of each September is nationally declared as POW/MIA Recognition Day. As Suffolk County is home to the largest number of veterans in New York State, Legislator Stern authored legislation to locally designate the same date to our former prisoners of war, and those who remain unaccounted for. On the third Friday of each September, the stark black and white banner symbolizing America's Missing in Action and Prisoners of War will be flown over our Suffolk County buildings and War memorials. The flag is raised as a solemn reminder of our obligation to never forget the sacrifices made to defend our great nation.

Legislator Stern announced the passage of the bill during the POW/MIA ceremony and bestowed a Proclamation to the Long Island Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War, which has proudly supported

former prisoners of war, their families and loved ones, and kept their stories alive for future generations to ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

“There are 83,000 American troops still unaccounted for since World War II. However, we do not remember them by their numbers. We remember them by holidays missed, empty seats at dinner tables and by the unsettling feeling their families endure as they question their loved one’s fate,” Legislator Stern said. “POW/MIA Recognition Day is a reminder of the promise we have made to do everything in our power to ensure that every American returns to the soil they went off to protect and to honor the spirits of those unaccounted for by taking care of their comrades here in Suffolk County. We will never forget our soldiers who sacrificed their freedom for the sake of ours.”